



MINUTES

STAR CITY River Town Action Team Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2014

MEETING HELD AT Star City Municipal Bldg., 370 Broadway Ave

Attendees: Allen Sharp, Ella Belling, Bill Kawecki, Steve Selin, Emma Luzader, Anna Withrow, Al Allison, CJ Peterson, Aaron Kramer, Jim Gaston, Anthony Giambrone

- I. Distributed and reviewed the minutes from the October 13th meeting. There were no changes or additions.
- II. Two Minute Public Updates:
 - Vika Haas is working with her Spring 2015 Landscape Architecture class to develop a storm-water management plan for the Edith Barill Riverfront Park.
 - The contract with Debbie Palmer to install a significant work of public art in Edith Barill Riverfront Park is moving forward.
 - Ella Belling briefed the group on the Van Vooris trail access site. A gravel parking lot and restroom is currently being installed along with directional and interpretive signing. Future plans call for a canoe and kayak dock.
 - The group also discussed whether the Edith Barill Riverfront Park could accommodate a 20 boat Monongahela River cruise planned for June 2015 by a group of boaters from the Fredericktown, PA area.

III. Edith Barill Riverfront Park Wall Project

The group worked on a description and rationale for a hillside wall in the Edith Barill Riverfront Park. This preliminary work will be compiled into an application for the WV Recreation Trail or Transportation Enhancements grant program of which a letter of intent is due December 16th. This project would expand the parking capacity of the park and provide a much needed picnic and event area behind the Tugboat Depot Playground. Grant requirements dictate that the project be framed as an amenity

improvement to both the rail-trail and water trail. This project will also allow additional riverfront events to be held at the park. There is a need to inventory both current and potential events to be held at the Edith Barill Park.

Additional ideas raised during the work session included the issue of how to improve connectivity between the bottom of the wall and the top of the wall; also, the possibility of “living history” exhibits or events at the park. Steve will be working with all involved to submit a letter of intent by the December 16th deadline. Thanks to all for participating in this discussion.

IV. Plans for Star City-Point Marion River Soujourn

Aaron Kramer and CJ Peterson, WVU students in Dr. Selin’s FOR 438 Public Engagement Methods course, met with the group about their class field project to develop an operational plan for a Star City to Point Marion, PA river-based event patterned after the successful PA river soujourns where muscle-powered boaters (kayak, canoe, paddle board, etc) gather to do a “recreational” paddle from one destination to another. This event would be timed to celebrate the completion of the rail-trail connection between Star City and Point Marion as well as bringing River Towns in PA and WV closer together.

Issues raised included co-sponsoring the event with outfitters like Pathfinder and Adventure WV who could provide boat rental and shuttle service back to Star City from Point Marion. Another idea was timing the event to piggyback onto Point Marion’s Regatta event held annually. The student group will meet with Vicky Evans of Point Marion to discuss Point Marion’s end of the proposed event. The student group appreciates the group’s input and will be finalizing their plan for the event by the middle of December.

VII. Next Meeting

December 15 Star City 5:00 pm Star City Municipal Bldg.

